

By 1991, popular pressure had restored the independence of Azerbaijan. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was approved. The United States established diplomatic relations with Azerbaijan in 1992. Since then, Azerbaijan has been a steadfast ally to the United States and an important strategic partner in the region.

Each year, the people of Azerbaijan remember those who lost their lives on Black January in 1990 and honor their sacrifice through their commitment to the ideals of democracy.

I urge my colleagues to commit to fostering a strong partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan so that together, we can promote freedom and democracy around the world.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MIRIAM LAWLER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate San Rafael, California, resident Miriam Lawler on the occasion of her 90th birthday on January 30, 2013.

Miriam Lawler is a native Californian, born in Los Angeles on January 30, 1923. She attended Santa Monica College and moved to San Francisco where she worked for the San Francisco Chronicle. Miriam went on to obtain her bachelor's degree from Dominican College and studied Spanish at the College of Marin.

During WWII, Miriam met William Lawler during his shore leave from his Navy destroyer. They married and settled in San Rafael, California, where she still lives today. Miriam has two sons: Martin and William Jr.

Always active in politics, Miriam worked on the presidential campaigns of Adlai Stevenson, John F. Kennedy, and Robert Kennedy. In Northern California, she also was involved in helping launch Clem Miller's successful congressional election. Throughout her life, Miriam has advocated for social justice and civil rights, has assisted children with learning disabilities, and has volunteered to help children learn to read.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate that we honor Miriam Lawler as she turns age 90 for her inspirational and prolonged civic engagement.

IMPORTANCE OF FUNDING IN MEDICAL RESEARCH FOR EPITHELIOID HEMANGIOENDO- THELIOMA AND OTHER DIS- EASES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss the importance of funding medical research for epithelioid hemangioendothelioma and other diseases. Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma, known simply as EHE, is a rare cancer affecting both men and women of all ages, causing disability, pain, and often death. The disease causes tumors in the endothelium, often affecting numerous organs at a time.

A study done by the American College of Chest Physicians states that EHE most often affects the lungs, liver, and bones, or a combination of these organs. Moreover, the disease causes a range of symptoms including pain, upper respiratory infections, bone fractures, weakness, and fatigue. The study also cites that while EHE is more common in women, men are more likely to die from it.

Currently, there is no effective treatment for EHE. The American College of Chest Physicians study states that EHE does not respond to chemotherapy and radiation as well as other cancers, causing many sufferers of the disease to resort to surgeries and organ transplants to try to relieve EHE's painful symptoms.

My constituent, Isaac Weinberg, is currently suffering from EHE. Because there is no cure for the disease, Isaac must have a liver transplant to alleviate some of the pain caused by it. Cutting medical research funding and limiting access to affordable healthcare would only hurt Isaac and other people suffering from EHE, as well as those suffering from other diseases.

However, providing funding for medical research would not only help those with EHE, but people with other diseases, as well. EHE is a sarcoma, a type of cancer that is very

common. Therefore, research for EHE would be beneficial in finding effective treatments and cures for many different cancers and diseases, potentially helping thousands of people.

I want to thank my constituent and Isaac's father, Dr. Guy Weinberg, for establishing the Center for Research and Analysis of Vascular Tumors. CRAVAT provides desperately-needed research money dedicated to learning more about EHE. However, we cannot rely on private efforts alone. Federal funding is necessary if we are to make significant advances in discovering ways to treat, cure, and eliminate EHE and other diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring awareness to this important cause. Cutting medical research funding will hurt thousands of Americans suffering from diseases both rare and common, and we cannot allow that to happen. Instead, we must provide the crucial funding needed to research EHE and other diseases, allowing us to find cures, save lives, and help families like the Weinbergs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 32 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 297, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2011. I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 33 On Ordering the Previous Question (H. Res. 48). Had I been present, I would have voted "no".